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VARIETY SELECTION



DID YOU KNOW
THAT THERE ARE
APPROXIMATELY 14
VARIETIES OF
WINTER WHEAT
CURRENTLY
REGISTERED THAT
FIT WESTERN
CANADIAN GROWING
CONDITIONS?

Approximately half of the **14 varieties of winter wheat** currently registered in western Canada will be suitable for any given area. Differences in varieties can vary from winter hardiness, disease resistance, yield potential and end use marketing. Sometimes the decision to grow a certain variety can simply be based on seed availability and price.

A major factor in deciding which variety you may want to grow on your farm is desired end use. Winter wheat classification is split between Select and general purpose varieties. The Select varieties are targeted for use in human consumption applications such as milling for flour. The general purpose varieties, which typically have lower quality characteristics, are suited more for animal feed and biofuel uses. There may also be differences in delivery times for feed versus Select varieties. Many times premiums are available for either type, as feed supplies run short or elevators are not busy before new crop begins coming in. If you already know your desired marketing avenue, the choice is easy. If you are unsure, we recommend contacting local growers and buyers to explore which varieties work best in the area and for what uses the winter wheat is required.

Location within the province is another important consideration, as some varieties have higher winter survival ratings than others. Disease and pest resistance is also a relevant factor, as some areas of western Canada can be more susceptible to diseases such as fusarium head blight and pests such as wheat midge. Although winter wheat typically escapes infection from these two pests, rust resistance, for example, may be an important consideration when choosing a winter wheat variety for your area.

General purpose varieties tend to yield higher than Select varieties in most areas of Alberta, although price differential between the two types can easily outweigh the yield difference. More often than not, successful varieties will be more available locally than varieties that are not as successful or do not meet local demands in the marketplace. Local experienced growers and agronomists can provide good insight to varieties that may be better suited to your location.

On the back side, the Alberta Winter Wheat Performance Table contains information on variety characteristics across all production areas of Alberta.



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Alberta Winter Wheat Performance Table - 2007

Variety	Yield as % of CDC Osprey				All Data	Relative		Plant Hgt. (cm)	Test Wt. (lb/bu)	Seed Wt. (mg)	Winter Survival	Resistance to:				
	Environment Productivity					Mat. (d)	Prot. (%)					Ldg	Shat	Pbald	Bunt	FHB
	Low	Med	High	V.H.												
CDC Osprey (bu/A)	35	61	86	119	72	219	12.4									
CWRW Select Varieties																
CDC OSPREY	100	100	100	100	100	0	0.0	87	63	32	VG	G	G	F	VP	P
AC Bellatrix	110	103	103	102	104	+2	+0.3	85	64	36	F	G	G	VG	F	P
AC Readymade	99	96	98	XX	97	+5	+1.8	87	64	36	P	EX	F	VG	P	--
AC Tempest	99	97	101	XX	99	+5	+1.5	86	64	38	P	EX	G	VG	P	--
CDC Buteo	99	96	97	XX	97	+1	+0.1	85	65	35	VG	F	G	--	VP	P
McClintock	88	101	94	XX	96	+3	-0.1	87	65	33	P	VG	G	--	VP	P
Norstar	103	96	92	88	95	+2	-0.1	104	64	33	VG	VP	G	G	VP	F
Radiant	104	103	106	XX	104	+2	-0.2	86	64	37	VG	VG	G	G	P	P
General Purpose Varieties																
CDC CLAIR	103	104	104	107	104	+1	-0.4	85	63	34	VG	F	G	F	VP	P
CDC Falcon	90	104	102	102	101	-2	-0.4	72	63	31	G	VG	G	F	VP	VP
CDC Harrier	109	109	110	104	108	+1	-1.2	90	62	31	VG	G	G	F	VP	P
CDC Kestrel	106	105	104	102	104	+1	-1.3	89	63	32	VG	F	G	P	VP	P
CDC Ptarmigan	XX	122	XX	XX	118	+1	-1.8	88	61	33	G	P	G	--	VP	--
CDC Raptor	96	105	103	100	102	+1	-0.6	79	64	30	VG	VG	G	--	VP	P

REMARKS: Winter wheat can be grown successfully in all areas of Alberta if seeded into standing stubble within the optimal seeding date period (generally before September 15) and if there is adequate snowfall. Yield figures are from trials with good winter survival. Productivity divisions are based on individual small plot trial yields: Low = under 45 bu/A; Medium = 45 to 75 bu/A; High = 75 to 105 bu/A; V. High = over 105 bu/A. Note that small plot yields are often 10-15% higher than field scale results. All comparisons are relative to **CDC OSPREY**, the current standard check variety. The provincial average maturity date for **CDC OSPREY** is August 7 (219 days after January 1). **Radiant** has resistance to the wheat curl mite which carries Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus. **AC Bellatrix** has resistance to common bunt - varieties that have poor resistance to this disease should be treated with a systemic seed treatment. **CDC Harrier** has stem rust resistance; **CDC Buteo**, **CDC Falcon**, **CDC Raptor**, and **McClintock** have stem and leaf rust resistance. **Radiant** and **McClintock** are known to carry genes effective against several races of stripe rust. **AC Bellatrix** was highly susceptible to stripe rust in 2006. Fields in southern Alberta should be inspected in the fall for infestation by Russian wheat aphid, as it may reduce winter survival. Winter wheat will normally escape Fusarium head blight infection if seeded before September 15. CWRW Select varieties receive price and protein premiums under a CWB Identity Preserved program. For details see <http://www.cwb.ca>. Winter wheat can be good feedstock for ethanol production. All General Purpose winter wheat varieties have hard red kernels except CDC Ptarmigan, which has soft white kernels.

XX Insufficient data (less than 6 data points)

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